



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS

Weekending: April 21, 2013

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR APRIL 21, 2013

The week started of warm, but by Friday a cold front moved over the Old Dominion and temperatures fell. Strong wind and frost were reported in some counties starting on Friday throughout the weekend. Scattered rain showers were also reported, leaving approximately 1 inch of rain. Days suitable for field work were 5.1. Small grains are behind in progress; last year winter wheat was 69% headed and this year it is 11% headed. The cold weather experienced earlier in spring contributed to small grains breaking dormancy late. Farmers are still behind on fieldwork for this time of year. Spraying herbicides, applying lime, and fertilizing were some of the activities farmers worked hard on getting caught up. Other farming activities included preparing tobacco bed, scouting for disease and bug pressure, and preparing for the soybean plantings.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 21, 2013	1	9	76	14
April 14, 2013	0	4	79	17
April 7, 2013	0	3	70	27
March 31, 2013	0	3	60	37
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 21, 2013	2	5	85	8
April 14, 2013	1	4	79	16
April 7, 2013	1	4	76	19
March 31, 2013	2	4	70	24

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	8	34	49	8
Livestock	1	6	28	55	10
Hay, Other	2	4	45	42	7
Hay, Alfalfa	0	2	41	51	6
Winter Wheat	1	2	25	64	8
Barley	0	2	27	63	8
Oats	0	0	22	72	6
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	3	23	55	19
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	25	75	0
Apples, All	0	0	13	87	0
Peaches	0	0	28	69	3
Grapes	0	0	15	85	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	0	98	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	39	21	58	37
Corn Emerged	11	NA	18	6
Summer Potatoes Planted	99	96	100	96
Winter Wheat Headed	11	4	69	21
Cotton	0	0	5	4

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING April 21, 2013

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar 1. To April 21	Mar. 1 to April 21 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	74	52	83	41	63	8	341	305	1.23	6.19	.13	13.82	1.15
Norfolk	75	57	84	48	66	9	351	328	.70	4.34	-2.04	11.90	-1.77
Richmond	76	55	83	44	65	8	377	360	.74	7.40	1.24	15.33	2.67
Roanoke	72	53	80	42	63	7	332	na	.69	6.00	-.12	15.29	2.86
Wash/Dulles	71	51	78	39	61	8	276	na	1.35	5.33	-.28	10.66	-.80

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

We had thunderstorms on Friday. Temperatures have been in the 30's at night and 50- 60's during the day.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Seasonably warm temperatures with rain on Friday followed by cool temperatures with some frost Sunday morning. Most of the Rockbridge region received around an inch of rain on Friday. Most farmers are still behind on field work. Small grains intended for forage were late breaking dormancy and it appears these haylage crops will be harvested later than usual.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Corn planting continues with the ground conditions being favorable, moisture and temperatures good. Breezy to light winds most every day, drying out the topsoil. Thunderstorms and approximately 1/2 inch of rain is expected Friday pm.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Everyone is very busy with killing cover crops to prepare for soybean planting. Tobacco land is getting prepared for planting.

BUCKINGHAM

Wind shear accompanied a storm that passed through the area on April 19 causing downed trees, power failure, damage to some buildings and farm equipment. There has been no apparent affect on crops due to their young age.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Corn planting started this week, since the ground has been wet and low nightly temperatures earlier in April. Light winds this week, good temperatures and moisture good for spring planting.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

This global warming is killing me....Hard frost this morning.... Just planted tomatoes. Peaches and pears have bloomed apples are blooming now. All crops are weeks behind. Small grain is heading out less than knee high.... Thunderstorms on Friday tore up everything and trees down and power outages... If you don't like the weather just wait 24 hours and it will change....usually to something worse.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Last week Franklin County received rain and lots of wind on Friday, knocking out power to around a 1,000 homes in Franklin County. Heavy rain and wind on Friday. This weekend going to be nice with cool temperatures. Cattle are looking fair to good, pasture quality could be worked on.

PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe & Stephen Barts)

Rain continues to delay fieldwork.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers continued to make very good progress planting the corn crop. Early planted corn emerged quickly due to warm temperatures, temperatures cooled dramatically over the weekend with frost reported on Monday, April 22nd. Farmers were also busy scouting the small grain crop for insects and disease. Pastures and hayfields have greened up and are growing well now.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn planting getting going now. About 50% of the crop has been planted with some emergence. Land prep continues for corn and soybean planting. Barley is heading out and wheat won't be far behind. Powdery mildew showing up in some wheat fields. Also some wheat fields showing a few problems with nutrient imbalances and a little cold damage, but nothing major. Plants in the greenhouses look good. Still nothing set out yet. Some beets, onions, peas and potatoes have been planted. Still some soil sampling and fertilizer/lime applications taking place. Hay fields are greening up.

SOUTHWESTERN

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Continued late developing pasture growth is affecting cattle condition. Some producers are continuing to feed hay and silage to allow grass to gain traction. Warm, moist conditions are helping grass but the small grains yield will be curtailed.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Producers still trying to get fertilizer out.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L Gregg)

The rain and storms on Friday had high winds, quite a bit of rainfall, and some limbs down in the county. Producers are preparing tobacco fields. They are spraying fields for no-till burn downs. They are also spreading lime and fertilizer.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Corn planting in full swing, with a few growers finished up. Burn down sprays going out and land is being prepped for cotton, peanuts, and soybeans.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Growers continue applying lime and fertilizer to fields as well as applying burn-down herbicides to corn cotton and soybean land. Growers are also applying nitrogen and minor nutrients and insecticides to small-grain crop. Corn planting is underway and other growers are getting ready to plant cotton.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Rain this week was right on time for planted corn and land due to be planted in corn. Cooler temperatures towards the end of the week put the strawberries in standstill mode yet again.

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